

Souks of Salé

The **souks of Sale** in Morocco , such as *souk Lakbir* and *souk Laghzal* , are today among the most authentic and oldest in Morocco [1] . Protected by the wall erected against the attacks of the Spanish buccaneers , the narrow alleys covered with cedar wood, sometimes dating from at least five centuries, shelter the stalls of cloth, slippers, spices or those of jewelry formerly held by the Jews [2] .

Organized by neighborhoods and trades, the souks of Salé enjoy good popularity thanks to their crafts and their culture. The *kissaria* (fabric souk) sells fabrics and jewelry [2] . In 1912, the rue des vendeurs de fils and almost half of the rue des shoemakers were considered to be part of a fabric souk (qissariya) which extended uninterrupted for about 2,500 m^2 [3] . Several streets intersect in this souk, the main ones being the rue des kharrazines (shoemakers) and that of harratines (sellers of silk thread) [3] . Souq Al-Ghazel is an auction market ; raw or dyed wool in piles is also sold there. It is also the largest square in the city [1, 4, 5] .

Kissaria As-sawari (the souk of columns) is the main center for the sale of fabric and wool, around twenty shops are said to be open there [3] . The large market or souk El-Kbir, specializes in the sale of traditional fabrics and clothing such as djellabas , slippers and fez . This souk is a former Christian slave market [6] . The Sebt souk (Saturday market) is only open on this day. The El-Attarine souk is one of the main spice markets.

Souk el-Merzouk is reserved for jewelers , nattiers and basket makers [7] . The Lakhmiss souk, one of the oldest souks in the city, sells mainly plants. The food souk specializes in the sale of food products including specialties of saletin origin as well as spices [1] . The jewelers' souk is made up of a dozen shops which mainly sell jewelry [2] .

Among these souks, the kissaria was classified as a historical monument by a dahir of 1935 [8] , established under the reign of Sultan Mohammed ben Youssef (future king of Morocco under the name of Mohammed V), within the framework of the French protectorate then in force .

Summary

Main souks of Salé

Social organization of the souks

References

See as well

Bibliography

Main souks of Salé

- Kissaria: (fabric souk) here are also several jewelers shops [9] , around 1912 it extended in an area of about 2500 m², this souk is attached to many streets mainly the rue des kharrazines (Shoemakers) and the rue des harratines (silk thread sellers) [10] , it has several units, the main one

(Shoemakers) and the rue des harratines (silk thread sellers) , it has several units, the main one leading to the Al-Ghzel souk [11] . The kissaria is classified national heritage by dahir of 1935 [12] .

- Souk Al-Ghzel: (Laghzel means wool or even wool spinning operation) auction market and raw or dyed wool in heaps, it is also the largest square in the city [1, 11, 13] .
- Kissaria As-sawari: (column souk) main center for the sale of fabric and woolens, there are about twenty shops [10] .
- Souk El-Kbir (The Great Market): market for traditional fabrics and clothing (Djellabas , Jabadors, Sarwal qandrissa, Babouches , Fez , Takchita) and carpenters, it was formerly a Christian slave market [14] .
- Souk Sebt (Saturday Market)
- Souk El-Attarine: (Attarine comes from the word Attare which means seller of folk remedies and spices and perfumes) spice market
- Souk el-Merzouk: souk reserved for jewelers, nattiers and basket makers [15] .
- Souk Lakhmiss: plant market, one of the old markets in the city, this souk has existed since the era of the French protectorate in Morocco .
- Food Souk: food market (olives and candied lemons, spices, salty pastries ...) [1] .
- Jewelers Souk: consists of around ten shops, it occupies a narrow covered street ending in an ogival arcade in the Medina district [9] .



Le Maristan on the way to Souk Laghzel



Souk el Kebir square around 1920

Social organization souks

The souks are organized by neighborhood and by profession.

- Basket maker : is a craftsman responsible for making decorative or utilitarian objects using fine and flexible rods (rattan , wicker , woven straw , raffia , reeds , wooden sticks ...) previously chosen according to the desired effect . To do this, he uses techniques specific to the work of plant fibers (knots, braids, interlacing ...).
- Blacksmith: is a worker or professional craftsman who forges by hand and assembles metal parts to make everyday objects. Bronze and silver are the most worked in Salé.
- Tanner: Person whose job is to tan leather through animal skins (beef, sheep, goat) that are chemically and mechanically treated for the production of leather .
- Mâalem : is a craftsman of high rank who has under his responsibility a certain number of apprentices who work in his workshop . Experienced for several years, the mâalems are the guardians of ancestral know-how as well as the secrets of the profession.
- Craftsman: Manual worker responsible for restoring decorative or utilitarian objects He works on the basis of personal ideas or models, among the specialties of this trade include:

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    - Pottery
    - Woodworking
    - The art of the carpet
    - Leatherwork
    - The production of

- The production of money
- Metal work
- Textile work

- Weaver: is a craftsman who weaves various types of threads to make fabrics or carpets .
- Gunsmith is a person who repairs, modifies, designs or manufactures weapons to customer specifications, using hand tools or machines (such as lathes , and grinders).
- Shoemaker (Kharraz in dialectal Arabic): Craftsman who makes or repairs shoes .
- Rakkas: traditional postman fulfilled an important function, sometimes traveling several tens of kilometers and taking several days of walking to transmit mail and values between cities.
- Guerrab: Water carrier used in the past along the souks and squares and irrigates passers-by with cold water
- Nattier: He is the one who makes basketweave rugs in fine stems, in particular to cover the floors of mosques.

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See also

- Dirty
- Souk
- Souks of Marrakech

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